

[54] **KEYSAFE SYSTEM WITH
TIMER/CALENDAR FEATURES**

[75] Inventors: **Philip D. Barrett; Walter G. Henderson; Wayne F. Larson**, all of Salem, Oreg.

[73] Assignee: **Supra Products, Inc.**, Salem, Oreg.

[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Aug. 30, 2005 has been disclaimed.

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Related U.S. Application Data

[60] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 192,853, May 11, 1988, abandoned, which is a division of Ser. No. 15,864, Feb. 17, 1987, Pat. No. 4,766,746, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 831,601, Feb. 21, 1986, Pat. No. 4,727,368, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 814,364, Dec. 30, 1985, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 788,072, Oct. 16, 1985, abandoned.

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[58] Field of Search 379/103, 105; 70/63, 70/271, 277; 361/171, 172; 340/825.31, 825.32, 636; 235/379, 380, 382, 382.5; 902/26, 27

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Primary Examiner—James L. Dwyer

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Klarquist, Sparkman, Campbell, Leigh & Whinston

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An electronic lock system is disclosed in which a key can be assigned a limited lifetime, such as by storing data indicative of an expiration date in a key memory. Whenever the key is used with a lock, the lock first examines this key data and verifies that the key is still timely before performing any operations. After a key's expiration date has passed, it is useless until a new expiration date is stored in its memory. By this arrangement, keys that are lost or stolen soon lose their efficacy and no longer pose a threat to system security. The invention also permits the lock administrator to issue keys with different useful lives, so that, for example, a person who needs a key for only one day can be issued a key that expires the next day. A variety of other operational features are also disclosed.

16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

